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**REMARKS**

Claims 1-6 and 9-33 are present in this application. Claims 7 and 8 are canceled. Claims 18-33 stand withdrawn. Claims 2, 12, 15, 16, 28, 29, and 33 are currently amended. Support is found in the claims as originally filed. Reconsideration of the application is requested.

The present invention is directed toward an organometal complex useful as a catalyst precursor. The catalyst precursor as defined in the instant claims comprises a selected Group -8, -9, or -10 transition metal, M; an ancillary bi-dentate ligand associated with M and comprising a substituted terminal amine and a substituted terminal phosphine connected by a hydrocarbyl bridge Y; and two abstractable ligands, X, bonded to the metal M in addition to the P-N containing ancillary ligand.

**Objections to Abstract**

The Abstract was previously amended according to the Examiner's suggestions. The Examiner now states that the abstract is objected to because it can easily accommodate the preferred structure of the catalyst system without exceeding the length limitations for an abstract. The Examiner cites MPEP § 608.01 (b) to support the objection. The abstract has been amended as the Examiner suggests. In the event the Examiner still objects to the Abstract, perhaps he could suggest the exact amendment he would like to see?

In view of the above, withdrawal of the objection is respectfully requested.

**Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. § 112**

Claims 1-6 and 9-17 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicants regard as the invention.

Claim 1 has been canceled. Withdrawal of the rejection is requested.

The Examiner suggests that the recited ring of claim 2 is to strained to exist. It is

Page 24 of 28

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respectfully submitted that the 3 membered ring as proposed in the instant claims are not to strained and can exist. The 3 membered ring would include the metal center. Note that the X atoms do also form a part of the ring. Further, Applicant notes that three membered metallacycle rings are well known in the literature, for example please see pages 60-61 of *Organotransition Metal Chemistry*, Akio Yamamoto, John Wiley and Sons, New York, 1986 (copy enclosed). Thus Applicant respectfully submits that the Examiner's suggestion that a three membered ring is too strained to exist is not correct and should not form the basis of a rejection under 35 USC § 112. Withdrawal of this rejection under 35 U.S.C. §112 is respectfully requested.

Claim 12 has been amended in the manner suggested by the Examiner. Withdrawal of this rejection is respectfully requested.

Claims 16 and 17 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph, as being indefinite. The Examiner suggests that Claims 16 and 17 are inconsistent with claims 14 and 2. Claim 16 has been cancelled since its subject matter is covered in claim 1. Claim 17 has been currently amended to be dependent upon claim 1. In view of the amendment to 17 and the cancellation of claim 16 withdrawal of the rejection is respectfully requested.

#### **Rejections Under 35 USC § 102(b)**

It is noted that the only claim being rejected over prior art is claim 1. It is therefore assumed that the remainder of the claims would be allowable.

Claim 1 has been rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as allegedly being anticipated by Buchwald et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,307,087, hereinafter "Buchwald"). The Examiner suggests that the invention as claimed is anticipated when one reads the term "abstractable ligands" broadly citing column 7, lines 5 to 44 and column 31 lines 40 to column 32 line 32. This rejection is respectfully traversed.

Firstly, it is respectfully asked that the Examiner present a more detailed explanation of what is meant by "construing the term abstractable ligand broadly." It would appear from the

Page 25 of 28

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nature of the Examiner's position that should the term "abstractable ligand" be more narrowly defined that the rejection would be removed. Further clarification is respectfully requested. The undersigned wishes to cooperate with the Examiner regarding this matter.

Secondly, it is respectfully submitted that Buchwald does not anticipate applicants' invention because Buchwald does not specifically disclose bridged complexed structures as instantly recited in Applicants' claims. More particularly, there is no disclosure within Buchwald that would represent the Applicants' composition that contains the abstractable ligands X. It is respectfully submitted that absent such a disclosure containing the transition metal bonded to the N and P atoms and further containing the abstractable ligands X, that Buchwald does not anticipate claim the claimed invention.

It should also be noted that Buchwald states that the metal should be in a zero oxidation state but not the highest oxidation state so that they are capable of undergoing oxidative addition. Applicants' metals such as Ni and Pd are Ni(II) and Pd(II), not the Ni(I) and Pd(0) of Buchwald. Withdrawal of the rejection is respectfully requested.

Applicant also notes that the Examiner has not responded to the arguments presented in the previous response. It was stated therein that: "The specific palladium and nickel complexes disclosed in Column 32 of Buchwald are not complexes which contain a bi-dentate aminophosphine ancillary ligand. (And applicants' claims exclude the Buchwald-disclosed palladium in any event.) Column 32 of Buchwald does say that bi-dentate ligands such as "hybrids of phosphine with amines" can be added as such to the Buchwald reaction mixture along with metal species to thereby form *in situ* the catalytic complexes of interest to Buchwald. But what ligands are formed on and remain on the eventually resulting catalytic metal complexes depends entirely on what ligands are present on the metal-ligand reagent added to the reaction mixture along with the aminophosphine ligand. There is no disclosure in Buchwald of any such specific metal-ligand reagent combined with any added specific aminophosphine bi-dentate ligand which would always and inevitably result in the formation of a catalyst precursor complex of the type encompassed by the structural formula set forth in applicants' Claims 1-6, and 9-17 as amended

herein.” It is asked that should this rejection over be Buchwald be maintained that the Examiner respond to the previously presented arguments.

It is respectfully submitted in view of the above that there is no disclosure in Buchwald of any specific catalyst precursor complex which would fall within the scope of the catalyst precursors now defined by the structural formula of applicants’ amended claims.

In addition claim 1 has been canceled. Thus Applicant's respectfully request the rejection be withdrawn.

**Possible Provisional Obviousness-Type Double Patenting**

The Examiner has suggested the possibility of an obviousness-type double patenting rejection but has not set forth such a rejection. In any event, as previously suggested, Applicants respectfully disagree that the instant claims are obvious over the claims of 10/692,827 ('827). In particular, applicants note that Claim 2 in '827 is dependent on Claim 1 which requires an activator. The Examiner restricted catalyst/activator combinations in the instant application as a separate invention. Therefore applicants respectfully submit that under the Examiner's own logic, the instant claims are not subject to obviousness-type double patenting over '827.

Regarding the double patenting rejections, Applicants respectfully submit that, due to the still-changeable nature of the claims, these rejections should be held in abeyance, *e.g.*, until such point as the pending claims are allowable but for such double patenting rejections. At that juncture, Applicants will, if necessary, submit the appropriate terminal disclaimer(s) to obviate any then-pending double patenting rejections. Applicants respectfully submit that these rejections are not ripe for resolution until there are otherwise allowable claims in the instant case and allowed or issued claims in the cases to which terminal disclaimers are sought.

**Related Application**

This application relates to similar subject matter in USSN 10/692,827, filed October 24, 2003. The Examiner is encouraged to review both applications in light of each other.

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**CONCLUSIONS**

Applicants have made an earnest effort to place their application in proper form and to establish the patentability of their claimed invention over the applied prior art. WHEREFORE, reconsideration of this application, entry of the amendments, withdrawal of the art, rejoinder of the withdrawn claims, and allowance of the amended claims herein are all respectfully requested.

Please charge any deficiency in fees during the entire pendency of this application or credit any overpayments to Deposit Account No. 05-1712.

Any comments or questions concerning the application can be directed to the undersigned at the telephone number given below.

Respectfully submitted,

March 1, 2007  
Date

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